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SECOM-D-665

28 SEP 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman and Members
NFIB Working Group on Compartmentation

25X1A FROM:

[REDACTED]
Security Advisor

SUBJECT: APEX and Contractors [REDACTED]

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1. I want to alert you to a potentially bad situation about APEX growing in the SCI industrial security arena and suggest you take steps to correct it. [REDACTED]

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2. The CIA sponsored a two day symposium 26-27 September with approximately 50 representatives of SCI contractor security personnel. The DCI addressed this group and spoke briefly about the existence of the APEX proposal. The audience received the DCI graciously and asked no questions of him about the APEX proposal. I had the pleasure of following the DCI with the task of briefing the attendees on the general concept and purpose of APEX. [REDACTED]

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3. I informed the industrial audience that the APEX proposal was an effort to implement recent Executive Orders, simplify and standardize the multiply SCI programs, decompartment as much as possible, better separate sources of intelligence from finished product and in general provide rational, intelligent rules and regulations through the SCI world. [REDACTED]

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4. It was apparent that APEX was not new to some participants. I attribute their knowledge to the incident a few months ago when the first draft of the APEX Industrial Manual was disseminated to selected [] contractors. []

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5. Some questions from the floor were benign and merely sought information. Questions from other members of the audience represented and implied more than simply an incomplete grasp of the philosophy, purpose and procedures of APEX. More than negative, they bordered on the hostile. Questions supplemented by comments clearly conveyed a hardening stance of opposition among some [] contractor security representatives. []

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6. I am concerned that this position could communicate itself to other industrial representatives leading to a poor situation indeed should APEX be adopted by the government. []

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7. I suggest that positive action be taken through your project officers to change this perception. Field representatives must adopt and foster at least a neutral environment if they cannot encourage a receptive attitude. If they do not do so, I submit they will be making their job much harder in the future. []

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8. In summary, some contractors reflect the negative stand adopted by some government program officers toward the APEX proposal during government level deliberations. This could make implementation of any APEX concept unnecessarily difficult. It is suggested that you may want to take corrective action. []

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